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EXAMINER
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

PTOL-90A (Rev. 04/07)

		Application No.	Applicant(s)
Office Action Summary		10/816,049	BARRUS, JOHN W.
		Examiner	Art Unit	
		Tran A. Quoc	2176	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE _3_ MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _21 March 2007_.

2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.　　2b) ☒ This action is non-final.

3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) ☒ Claim(s) _1-64 and 66-77_ is/are pending in the application.

　　4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) ☒ Claim(s) _1-64, and 66-77_ is/are rejected.

7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.

　　Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

　　Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

　　a) ☐ All　b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:

　　　1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

　　　2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

　　　3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

　　* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
　　Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
　　Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.

5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application

6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1.   This is a Non-Final Office Action on the merits. This action is responsive to

RCE/Remarks, which was filed on 03-21-2007.

2.   Claims 1-64, and 66-77 are currently pending in the case, with claims 1, 33, 34,

and 61 being the independent claims. Claim 65 is canceled.

3.   The filing of a proper terminal disclaimer for copending patent application

number 10/665,097 was filed on 09-14-2006. Accordingly, the double patenting

rejection is withdrawn.

4.   Effective filing date is 03-31-2004, CIP of 10/404,916 filed 03-31-2003

(Assignee: Ricoh).

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

5.   A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set

forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this

application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set

forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action

has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 03-21-

2007 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6.　　The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> *(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.*

Claims 1-29, 31-64, and 66-77 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being

unpatentable over <u>Johnson</u>, et al. (US005267303A, issued November 30, 1993)

[hereinafter "Johnson"], in view of <u>Shut</u>, et al. (US 20060126101A1, filed February

06, 2003) [hereinafter "Shut"].

Regarding **independent claim 1, as amended**, Johnson teaches:

> **A computer-implemented method comprising: receiving an image of**
>
> **an overview of a collection that comprises a first plurality of check boxes**
>
> **associated with documents and a second plurality of check boxes associated**
>
> **with actions; identifying at least one action set forth in the image;**

(See Johnson fig. 7-8 and col. 17 line 20 through col. 18 line 10, illustrating form 500, list

content, categories, and into the following form section(s) item 508, that are included

plurality of check boxes item 520, 522, 524, and 526 associate to the plurality of check

boxes of "into the following form section(s) item 528, 530, and 532 for manipulation of a

collection through a plurality of check boxes indicating documents and a plurality of

check boxes associated with actions. Using the broadest reasonable interpretation, the

examiner reads the claimed **an image of an overview of a collection documents** as

equivalent to form 500, to access documents that are stored on a computer, and

processing the documents as indicated as taught by Johnson.

Also, see Johnson col. 16 lines 20-25, teaching a Starter Form 500 can be created

in advance by a user through a form editor user interface provided by windows

instructions 304. The form editor can allow the user to create a form with one or more

sections, <u>each for requesting a respective type of transaction, such as Send, Retrieve,</u>

<u>Store, List Contents, and Delete.</u>

In addition, it is noted that the term "**collection**," and the related term "**sub-**

collection," are not specially defined in the application. From the specification and

claims, the Examiner believes the terms to have been intended by the applicants to be

used in their usual and ordinary meaning, such as: "a group of objects or works to be seen

or kept together." "The American Heritage College dictionary," definition 2 of

"collection," Houghton Mifflin Company, Fourth Edition, 2002. As used in the context

of a computer or computer stored documents, the term "collection" is believed by the

Examiner to be the same as a file. See, "Microsoft Computer Dictionary," Fifth Edition,

Microsoft Press, 2002, definition of "file" as follows, in relevant part: "A complete

named collection of information, such as a program, a set of data used by a program, or a

user-created document." Accordingly, as used in this application, the limitation term

"collection," including a "sub-collection," will be read consistent with the definition of a

computer "file" for the remainder of this Office Action.)

502 — 504

P▲ Starter Form   ID

506

Security Code ⌐ A ⌐ B ⌐ C ⌐ D

List Contents   520   522
⌐ Doc. Index   ⌐ Recipients

Categories   524   526   508
⌐ All Documents   ⌐ Category A

Into The Following Form Section (s)   532
528
⌐ Retrieve   ⌐ Send   ⌐ Delete
530

Return Address   510
☐☐☐   ☐☐☐   ☐☐☐☐

500

Fig. 7

P▲ MM/DD/YY HH:MM   ID

Send

Write - in Recipient: 592   552
590 ☐   ⌐ Add To Recipient Index
594 ☐☐☐   ☐☐☐   ☐☐☐☐

Documents   602   604   556
600 ⌐ Doc A   ⌐ Doc B   ⌐ Doc C

Options   612   614   558
610 ⌐ Copy Self   ⌐ Send Time A   ⌐ Show All

Cover Note :   560
☐
620   550

Fig. 8

In addition, Johnson does not explicitly teach, but Shut teaches:

>**identifying at least one document, wherein the identifying the at least**
>
>**one action based on the second plurality of check boxes and the**
>
>**identifying the at least one document based on the first plurality of**
>
>**check boxes is performed using a single image; and performing the at**
>
>**least one action on the at least one document in response to the**
>
>**identifying the at least one action and the at least one document.**

(See Shut para 67, teaching "batch" coversheet may be used in conjunction with

"document separator" coversheets.

Also, see Shut para 59, teaching a transaction party may submit a document to the

repository in any suitable format, for example an image or other electronic file generated

by fax, scan or electronic download. For each document, the transaction party provides a

document type and destination folder, although additional information may also be

provided. The transaction party may submit the document image in a multi-page TIFF

format, optionally using bar codes to provide required information such as the document
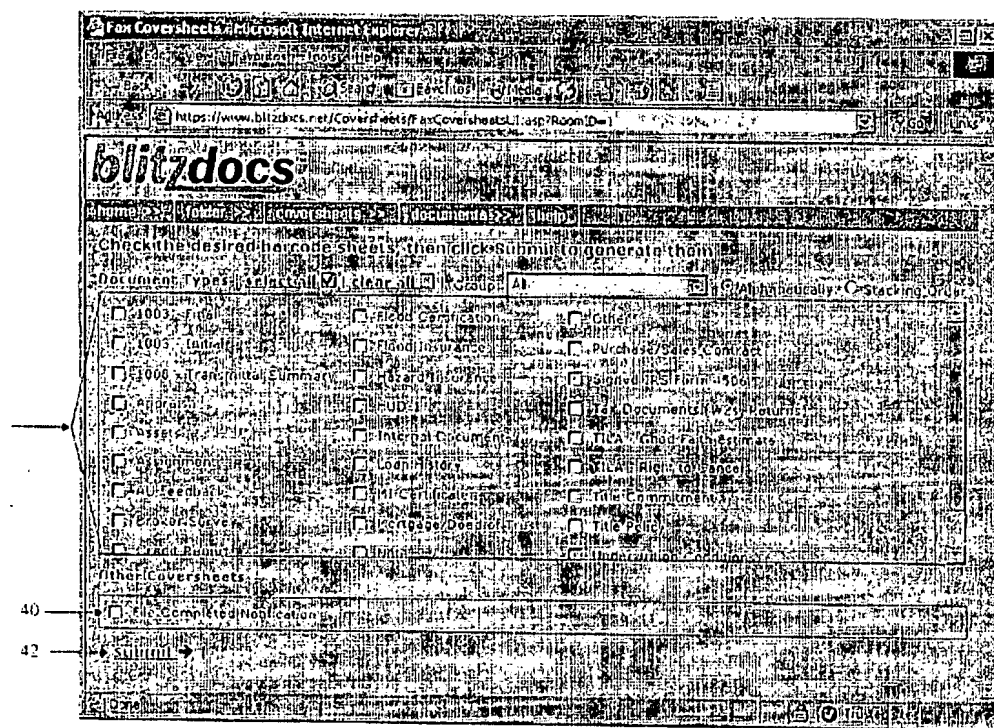
type and the destination folder.

Also, see Shut para 62, teaching a single multi-page TIFF file may include

multiple documents. In such a file, each document is identified by a separate bar code,

which may be printed directly on the first page of the document or may be located on a

separate coversheet immediately preceding the first page of the document. Accordingly,

indexing process 22, responsively to the information provided by the bar codes, separates

the file into individual document images for storage in database.

Also, see Shut fig. 4 and 6 and para 64-66, shows in FIG. 4, from that screen, the

user checks desired document types 38 and clicks on a submit link 42, which causes the

fax coversheets shown in FIG. 5, to be generated in the browser. At that point, the user

simply prints the coversheets from their browser. Then using barcodes sheets for

identification of documents, the system enables the user to generate barcode sheets that

instruct the system to take a predefined action associated with a folder and/or document

in the repository. For example, a user can generate a barcode sheet that instructs the

system to send an email notification indicating that a particular folder contains all

documents necessary for the business transaction. This type of barcode sheet is referred

to as an "action barcode sheet" and is typically included as the last page of a fax

containing documents and coversheet.

Figure 4   Screenshot of the Fax Coversheets Generation Page

Figure 6   Screenshot of an Example Scanning Coversheet

Using the broadest reasonable interpretation, the examiner equates the claimed **plurality**

of check boxes as equivalent to each document is identified by a separate bar code as

taught by Shut. And also discloses in the current application specification, using a 2-D

bar code representation of a DRI allows for automated access to the collection without
requiring the user to manually enter the location (see current application specification
para 113).)

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the
invention was made to have modified Johnson's Starter form 500 of fig.7-8, to access
documents that are stored on a computer, and processing the documents as indicated, to
include a means of identifying at least one document, wherein the identifying the at least
one action based on the second plurality of check boxes and the identifying the at least
one document based on the first plurality of check boxes is performed using a single
image; and performing the at least one action on the at least one document in response to
the identifying the at least one action and the at least one document as taught by Shut.
One of the ordinary skills in the art would have been motivated to modify this
combination, because they are from the same field of endeavor of batch coversheet (GUI)
for identifying and pressing stored document, and enables the user to generate barcode
sheets that instruct the system to take a predefined action associated with a folder and/or
document in the repository (see Shut para 66).

Regarding **independent claim 33,** the rejection of claim 1 is fully incorporated and is
similarly rejected along the same rationale.

Johnson teaches:

receiving a document index image of an overview of a

collection and,

(See Johnson fig. 7-8 and col. 17 line 20 through col. 18 line 10, illustrating form 500, list

content, categories, and into the following form section(s) item 508, that are included

plurality of check boxes item 520, 522, 524, and 526 associate to the plurality of check

boxes of "into the following form section(s) item 528, 530, and 532 for manipulation of a

collection through a plurality of check boxes indicating documents and a plurality of

check boxes associated with actions. Using the broadest reasonable interpretation, the

examiner reads the claimed **an image of an overview of a collection documents** as

equivalent to form 500, to access documents that are stored on a computer, and

processing the documents as indicated as taught by Johnson.)

In addition, Johnson does not explicitly teach, but Shut teaches:

a machine readable pointer identifying the collection;

(See Shut para 67, teaching "batch" coversheet may be used in conjunction with

"document separator" coversheets.

Also, see Shut para 62, teaching a single multi-page TIFF file may include

multiple documents. In such a file, each document is identified by a separate bar code,

which may be printed directly on the first page of the document or may be located on a

separate coversheet immediately preceding the first page of the document. Accordingly,

indexing process 22, responsively to the information provided by the bar codes, separates

the file into individual document images for storage in database. Using the broadest

reasonable interpretation, the examiner equates the claimed **a machine-readable pointer**

as equivalent to each document is identified by a separate bar code as taught by Shut.

And also discloses in the current application specification, using a 2-D bar code

representation of a DRI allows for automated access to the collection without requiring

the user to manually enter the location (see current application specification para 113).)

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Johnson's Starter form 500 of fig.7-8, to access documents that are stored on a computer, and processing the documents as indicated, to include a machine readable pointer identifying the collection as taught by Shut. One of the ordinary skills in the art would have been motivated to modify this combination, because they are from the same field of endeavor of batch coversheet (GUI) for identifying and pressing stored document, and enables the user to generate barcode sheets that instruct the system to take a predefined action associated with a folder and/or document in the repository (see Shut para 66).

Regarding **independent claim 34** is directed toward an article of manufacture comprising one or more recordable media having instructions stored thereon which, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to perform a method of claim 1and is similarly rejected under the same rationale (see Johnson col. 2, lines 30-65).

Regarding **independent claim 61** is directed toward a system to perform a method of

claim 33 and is similarly rejected under the same rationale (see Johnson col. 2,

lines 30-65).

In addition, Johnson teaches:

a marked check box locator,

(See Johnson fig. 7-8 and col. 17 line 20 through col. 18 line 10, illustrating form 500, list

content, categories, and into the following form section(s) item 508, that are included

plurality of check boxes item 520, 522, 524, and 526 associate to the plurality of check

boxes of "into the following form section(s) item 528, 530, and 532 for manipulation of a

collection through a plurality of check boxes indicating documents and a plurality of

check boxes associated with actions.)

Regarding **dependent claims 2-3**:

The rejection of claim 1 is fully incorporated, and are rejected along the same

rationale.

Regarding **dependent claim 4**: Johnson teaches:

wherein the collection overview comprises a plurality of

representations of documents,

(See Johnson fig. 7-8 and col. 17 line 20 through col. 18 line 10, illustrating form 500, list

content, categories, and into the following form section(s) item 508, that are included

plurality of check boxes item 520, 522, 524, and 526 associate to the plurality of check

boxes of "into the following form section(s) item 528, 530, and 532 for manipulation of a

collection through a plurality of check boxes indicating documents and a plurality of

check boxes associated with actions. Using the broadest reasonable interpretation, the

examiner reads the claimed **the collection overview** as equivalent to Starter form 500, to

access documents that are stored on a computer, and processing the documents as

indicated as taught by Johnson.)

In addition, Johnson does not explicitly teach, but Shut teaches:

> **and wherein identifying at least one document based on the location**
>
> **of the at least one indication area comprises identifying the at least**
>
> **one document corresponding to a document representation indicated**
>
> **by the mark in the at least one indication area;**

(See Shut para 62, teaching a single multi-page TIFF file may include multiple

documents. In such a file, each document is identified by a separate bar code, which may

be printed directly on the first page of the document or may be located on a separate

coversheet immediately preceding the first page of the document. Accordingly, indexing

process 22, responsively to the information provided by the bar codes, separates the file

into individual document images for storage in database. Using the broadest reasonable

interpretation, the examiner equates the claimed **the mark in the at least one indication**

area as equivalent to each document is identified by a separate bar code as taught by

Shut. And also discloses in the current application specification, using a 2-D bar code

representation of a DRI allows for automated access to the collection without requiring

the user to manually enter the location (see current application specification para 113).)

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Johnson's Starter form 500 of fig.7-8, to access documents that are stored on a computer, and processing the documents as indicated, to include a means of identifying at least one document based on the location of the at least one indication area comprises identifying the at least one document corresponding to a document representation indicated by the mark in the at least one indication area as taught by Shut. One of the ordinary skills in the art would have been motivated to modify this combination, because they are from the same field of endeavor of batch coversheet (GUI) for identifying and pressing stored document, and enables the user to generate barcode sheets that instruct the system to take a predefined action associated with a folder and/or document in the repository (see Shut para 66).

Regarding **dependent claim 5**: Johnson does not explicitly teach, but Shut teaches:

> **wherein identifying the at least one document based on the**
>
> **location of the at least one indication area having the mark therein**
>
> **comprises: determining a coordinate location for the at least one**
>
> **indication area having the mark therein; and determining a**
>
> **coordinate location for at least one of the document representations;**
>
> **identifying a first document by comparing the coordinate location for**
>
> **at least one indication area having the mark therein with the**
>
> **coordinate location for the at least one document representation.**

(See Shut para 62, teaching a single multi-page TIFF file may include multiple

documents. In such a file, each document is identified by a separate bar code, which may

be printed directly on the first page of the document or may be located on a separate

coversheet immediately preceding the first page of the document. Accordingly, indexing

process 22, responsively to the information provided by the bar codes, separates the file

into individual document images for storage in database. Using the broadest reasonable

interpretation, the examiner equates the claimed **a coordinate location for the at least**

one indication area having the mark therein as equivalent to each document is

identified by a separate bar code as taught by Shut. And also discloses in the current

application specification, using a 2-D bar code representation of a DRI allows for

automated access to the collection without requiring the user to manually enter the

location (see current application specification para 113).)

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Johnson's Starter form 500 of fig.7-8, to access documents that are stored on a computer, and processing the documents as indicated, to include a means of identifying the at least one document based on the location of the at least one indication area having the mark therein comprises: determining a coordinate location for the at least one indication area having the mark therein; and determining a coordinate location for at least one of the document representations; identifying a first document by comparing the coordinate location for at least one indication area having the mark therein with the coordinate location for the at least one document representation as taught by Shut. One of the ordinary skills in the art would have been motivated to modify this combination, because they are from the same field of endeavor of batch coversheet (GUI) for identifying and pressing stored document, and enables the user to generate barcode sheets that instruct the system to take a predefined action associated with a folder and/or document in the repository (see Shut para 66).

Regarding **dependent claim 6**:

The rejection of claim 1 is fully incorporated, and is rejected along the same rationale.

Regarding **dependent claim 7**: Johnson teaches:

> **wherein the indication area is located on top of a portion of a graphic**
>
> **representing at least one document in a collection.**

(See, Johnson, col. 19, lines 26-31, teaching graphical content in the form of an image,

for use in identifying a document.)

Regarding **dependent claims 8-9**: Johnson teaches:

> **wherein the image includes a machine readable pointer to identify the**
>
> **collection, wherein the machine readable pointer comprises a 2-D barcode.**

(See, Johnson, col. 1, lines 18-23, teaching the use of a bar code as a machine readable

pointer.)

Regarding **dependent claims 10-11**, Johnson does not explicitly teach, but Shut teaches:

> **wherein receiving an image of an overview of the collection comprises**
>
> **capturing an image of the sheet and identifying at least one document by**
>
> **reading an RFID tag embedded in the sheet, the data on the RFID tag**
>
> **identifying the collection containing a document, and scanning a sheet having**
>
> **an identifier and having graphical content representing a collection of one or**
>
> **more media objects, wherein scanning the sheet results in creating the image.**

(See Shut para 62, teaching a single multi-page TIFF file may include multiple

documents. In such a file, each document is identified by a separate bar code, which may

be printed directly on the first page of the document or may be located on a separate

coversheet immediately preceding the first page of the document. Accordingly, indexing

process 22, responsively to the information provided by the bar codes, separates the file

into individual document images for storage in database. Using the broadest reasonable

interpretation, the examiner equates the claimed **an RFID tag embedded in the sheet** as

equivalent to each document is identified by a separate bar code as taught by Shut. And

also discloses in the current application specification, using a 2-D bar code representation

of a DRI allows for automated access to the collection without requiring the user to

manually enter the location (see current application specification para 113).)

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the

invention was made to have modified Johnson's Starter form 500 of fig.7-8, to access

documents that are stored on a computer, and processing the documents as indicated, to

include a means of receiving an image of an overview of the collection comprises

capturing an image of the sheet and identifying at least one document by reading an

RFID tag embedded in the sheet, the data on the RFID tag identifying the collection

containing a document as taught by Shut. One of the ordinary skills in the art would have

been motivated to modify this combination, because they are from the same field of

endeavor of batch coversheet (GUI) for identifying and pressing stored document, and

enables the user to generate barcode sheets that instruct the system to take a predefined

action associated with a folder and/or document in the repository (see Shut para 66).

Regarding **dependent claim 12**:

      The rejection of claim 2 is fully incorporated, and is rejected along the same

rationale.

In addition, Johnson teaches:

           wherein the plurality of actions comprise two or more of a group

           consisting of printing, faxing, sending by electronic mail, deleting, grouping,

           ungrouping, and playing.

(See also, Johnson, figures 7-9, teaching retrieving (printing), faxing, and deleting.)

Regarding **dependent claim 13**, Johnson teaches:

           wherein identifying at least one action set forth in the image

           comprises identifying a location of a mark in an action indication area on the

           image.

(See, Johnson, figure 8, teaching identifying a mark in a particular location in order to

indicate an action.)

Regarding **dependent claim 14**, Johnson teaches:

           wherein identifying at least one action set forth in the image

           comprises identifying a location of a mark in an action indication area on the

           image.

(See, Johnson, col. 18, lines 55-63, teaching selection of all documents or a set of

documents.)

Regarding **dependent claim 15**, Johnson teaches:

> **wherein the at least one document is part of a stored collection, and**
>
> **further wherein the collection overview comprises a collection coversheet.**

(See, Johnson, figure 8, and col. 18, lines 55-63, teaching the coversheet as an overview

of a collection of documents.)

Regarding **dependent claim 16**, Johnson teaches:

> **wherein the collection overview comprises a plurality of thumbnail**
>
> **depictions of documents.**

(See, Johnson, col. 19, lines 26-31, teaching graphical content in the form of an image,

for use in identifying a document. The Examiner takes official notice of the fact that

"thumbnail" images were a well known and widely used icons representing software

applications and functions and it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the

art at the time of the invention to use a thumbnail representation of a document on a

document image index coversheet for purposes of giving visual cues to the user as to the

content of the documents represented. See, Bloomberg (U.S. Patent 5,761,686, issued

June 2, 1998), col. 3, lines 7-31, teaching that the use of thumbnail images as icons

representing documents in applications and functions was well known in the art at the

time of the invention.)

Regarding **dependent claim 17,** Johnson does not explicitly teach, but Shut teaches:

> **wherein the collection coversheet comprises a machine-readable**
>
> **collection identifier specifying a storage location for the collection, the**
>
> **method further comprising, prior to performing at least one action,**
>
> **retrieving the at least one document from the storage location.**

(See Shut para 62, teaching a single multi-page TIFF file may include multiple

documents. In such a file, each document is identified by a separate bar code, which may

be printed directly on the first page of the document or may be located on a separate

coversheet immediately preceding the first page of the document. Accordingly, indexing

process 22, responsively to the information provided by the bar codes, separates the file

into individual document images for storage in database. Using the broadest reasonable

interpretation, the examiner equates the claimed **a machine-readable collection**

identifier specifying a storage location as equivalent to each stored document is

identified by a separate bar code as taught by Shut. And also discloses in the current

application specification, using a 2-D bar code representation of a DRI allows for

automated access to the collection without requiring the user to manually enter the

location (see current application specification para 113).)

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the

invention was made to have modified Johnson's Starter form 500 of fig.7-8, to access

documents that are stored on a computer, and processing the documents as indicated, to

include a means of wherein the collection coversheet comprises a machine-readable

collection identifier specifying a storage location for the collection, the method further

comprising, prior to performing at least one action, retrieving the at least one document

from the storage location as taught by Shut. One of the ordinary skills in the art would have been motivated to modify this combination, because they are from the same field of endeavor of batch coversheet (GUI) for identifying and pressing stored document, and enables the user to generate barcode sheets that instruct the system to take a predefined action associated with a folder and/or document in the repository (see Shut para 66).

Regarding **dependent claim 18**, Johnson teaches:

> **wherein the collection overview comprises a list of documents. (**

See, Johnson, col. 18, lines 64-68, teaching creation of a list of documents as a document index.)

Regarding **dependent claim 19**, Johnson teaches:

> **wherein the collection overview comprises a plurality of thumbnail**
> **depictions of documents.**

(See, Johnson, col. 19, lines 26-31, teaching graphical content in the form of an image, for use in identifying a document. The Examiner takes official notice of the fact that "thumbnail" images were a well known and widely used icons representing software applications and functions and it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use a thumbnail representation of a document on a document image index coversheet for purposes of giving visual cues to the user as to the content of the documents represented. See, Bloomberg (U.S. Patent 5,761,686, issued June 2, 1998), col. 3, lines 7-31, teaching that the use of thumbnail images as icons representing documents in applications and functions was well known in the art at the

time of the invention.)

Regarding **dependent claim 20**, Johnson teaches:

> **wherein the collection overview comprises a plurality of icons**
>
> **representing documents.**

(See, Johnson, col. 19, lines 26-31, teaching graphical content in the form of an image,

for use in identifying a document, each graphic being an icon.)

Regarding **dependent claim 21**, Johnson teaches:

> **wherein the at least one action specifies a grouping action, and**
>
> **wherein the at least one document comprises two or more documents, and**
>
> **wherein performing the at least one action comprises grouping the two or**
>
> **more documents.**

(See, Johnson, figures 7-9, teaching grouping of documents and actions relating to

groups, noting that marking any of the several documents listed would create a group.)

Regarding **dependent claim 22**, Johnson teaches:

> **wherein grouping the two or more documents comprises forming a**
>
> **sub-collection comprising the two or more documents.**

(See, Johnson, figures 7-9, teaching grouping of documents and actions relating to

groups, noting that marking any of the several documents listed would create a sub-

collection of the entire list.)

Regarding **dependent claim 23,** Johnson teaches:

> **wherein the at least one action comprises transmitting the at least one**
>
> **document to a destination, the method further comprising determining a**
>
> **destination.**

(See, Johnson, figures 8, elements 590 and 594, teaching transmitting a document to a

determined destination.)

Regarding **dependent claim 24,** Johnson teaches:

> **wherein determining a destination comprises receiving user input**
>
> **specifying a destination.**

(See, Johnson, figures 8, elements 590 and 594, teaching transmitting a document to a

user input determined destination.)

Regarding **dependent claim 25,** Johnson teaches:

> **wherein determining a destination comprises reading an indicator of a**
>
> **destination from the image.**

(See, Johnson, figure 11, elements 262 and 264, teaching transmitting a document to a

determined destination group of recipients.)

Regarding **dependent claim 26,** Johnson teaches:

> **wherein determining a destination comprises reading an indicator of a**
>
> **destination from an action indication area in the image.**

(See, Johnson, figure 11, elements 262 and 264, teaching an action indication area of the

image, being the identified check boxes.)

Regarding **dependent claim 27** Johnson teaches:

> **wherein determining a destination comprises determining at least one**
>
> **selected from the group consisting of an e-mail address; a fax number; a**
>
> **uniform resource locator; a telephone number; and a mailing address.**

(See, Johnson, figures 8, element 594, for indicating a recipients fax number, and also

see , figure 11, elements 262 and 264, teaching an action indication area of the image,

being the identified check boxes.)

Regarding **dependent claim 28**, Johnson teaches:

> **wherein receiving the image of a document index comprises receiving**
>
> **an e-mail message containing the image of the document index.**

(See, Johnson, col. 22, lines 29-39, teaching that the document may be sent via e-mail.)

Regarding **dependent claim 29**, Johnson teaches:

> **wherein receiving the image of a document index comprises receiving**
>
> **a fax message containing the image of the document index.**

(See, Johnson, col. 22, lines 29-39, teaching that the document may be sent via fax.)

Regarding **dependent claim 31**, Johnson does not explicitly teach, but Shut teaches:

> **wherein the machine readable identifier comprises an identifier specifying a storage location, and the method further comprising, prior to performing the at least one action, retrieving the at least one document from the storage location.**

(See Shut para 62, teaching a single multi-page TIFF file may include multiple documents. In such a file, each document is identified by a separate bar code, which may be printed directly on the first page of the document or may be located on a separate coversheet immediately preceding the first page of the document. Accordingly, indexing process 22, responsively to the information provided by the bar codes, separates the file into individual document images for storage in database. Using the broadest reasonable interpretation, the examiner equates the claimed **the machine readable identifier** as equivalent to each stored document is identified by a separate bar code as taught by Shut. And also discloses in the current application specification, using a 2-D bar code representation of a DRI allows for automated access to the collection without requiring the user to manually enter the location (see current application specification para 113).)

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Johnson's Starter form 500 of fig.7-8, to access documents that are stored on a computer, and processing the documents as indicated, to include a means of wherein the machine readable identifier comprises an identifier specifying a storage location, and the method further comprising, prior to performing the at least one action, retrieving the at least one document from the storage location as taught by Shut. One of the ordinary skills in the art would have been motivated to modify

this combination, because they are from the same field of endeavor of batch coversheet

(GUI) for identifying and pressing stored document, and enables the user to generate

barcode sheets that instruct the system to take a predefined action associated with a folder

and/or document in the repository (see Shut para 66).

Regarding **dependent claim 32**, Johnson teaches:

> **prior to performing the at least one action, retrieving the at**
>
> **least one document from a storage device.**

(See Johnson col. 16 lines 20-25, teaching a Starter Form 500 can be created in advance

by a user through a form editor user interface provided by windows instructions 304. The

form editor can allow the user to create a form with one or more sections, each for

requesting a respective type of transaction, such as Send, Retrieve, Store, List Contents,

and Delete.)

Regarding **dependent claims 35-38** respectively:

> The rejection of claims 2, 3, 6, and 7 respectively, fully incorporated, and
>
> are rejected along the same rationale.

Regarding **dependent claims 39**:

> The rejection of claim 10 fully incorporated, and is rejected along the
>
> same rationale.

Regarding **dependent claims 40-44** respectively:

> The rejection of claims 11-15 respectively, fully incorporated, and are
>
> rejected along the same rationale.

Regarding **dependent claims 45-50** respectively:

> The rejection of claims 15-20 respectively, fully incorporated, and are
>
> rejected along the same rationale.

Regarding **dependent claims 51-60** respectively:

> The rejection of claims 23-32 respectively, fully incorporated and are
>
> rejected along the same rationale

Regarding **dependent claims 62-63, 64, and 66-67** respectively:

> The rejection of claims 6, 7, 11,14, and 3 respectively, fully incorporated,
>
> and are rejected along the same rationale.

Regarding **dependent claims 68-71**:

> The rejection of claims 15, 15, 16, and 17 respectively, fully incorporated,
>
> and are rejected along the same rationale.

Regarding **dependent claim 72**:

> The rejection of claim 5, fully incorporated, and is rejected along the same
>
> rationale.

Regarding **dependent claims 73-77**:

The rejection of claims 18, 16, 23, and 28 respectively, fully incorporated,

and are rejected along the same rationale.

Claim 30 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over

Johnson, et al. **(US005267303A, issued November 30, 1993) [hereinafter "Johnson"],**

in view of Shut, et al. (US 20060126101A1, filed February 06, 2003) [hereinafter

"Shut"], further in view of Cooper, et al. (U.S. Patent 5,680,223, issued October 21,

1997) [hereinafter "Cooper"].

Regarding **dependent claim 30**: Johnson and Shut do not explicitly teach, but cooper

teaches:

determining the at least one action by performing optical character

recognition on an action indication area.

(See, Cooper, col. 1, line 8 through col. 18, line 65, specifically, col. 4, lines 23-38,

teaching OCR.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the

invention was made to have modified Johnson and Shut teaching of Starter form 500 of

fig.7-8, to access documents that are stored on a computer, and Shut retrieving the at least

one document from the storage location using barcode identifier, to include a means of

determining the at least one action by performing optical character recognition on an

action indication area as taught by Cooper. One of the ordinary skills in the art would

have been motivated to modify this combination, because they are from the same field of

endeavor of document management by cover sheets. In addition, both Johnson and

Cooper are named inventors in each of the references and the patents are both assigned to

the same Assignee. The suggestion or motivation for the combination is that the OCR is

but an additional functionality to very similar document management inventions with

similar inventors on the two patents. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of

ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of Johnson

and Cooper to result in the claim specified in claim 30.)

7.   It is noted that any citations to specific, pages, columns, lines, or figures in the

prior art references and any interpretation of the references should not be considered to be

limiting in any way. A reference is relevant for all it contains and may be relied upon for

all that it would have reasonably suggested to one having ordinary skill in the art. See,

MPEP 2123.

Response to Argument

8.   Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-64, and 66-77 have been

considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection. This office action is a

Non-Final Rejection in order to give the applicant sufficient opportunity to response to

the new line of rejection.

Applicant argues that the reference, Johnson, fails to show the newly amended

feature of "**performing the at least one action on the at least one document in**

response to the identifying the at least one action and the at least one document, as

recited in amended claim 1," (see the Remarks page 17 top).

The Examiner disagrees.

Using the broadest reasonable interpretation of the claim limitations, as discuss in

the rejection above, the examiner introduces new reference. specifically Shut discloses,

the "batch" coversheet may be used in conjunction with "document separator"

coversheets (See Shut para 67). Also, Shut discloses at para 59, a transaction party may

submit a document to the repository in any suitable format, for example an image or other

electronic file generated by fax, scan or electronic download. For each document, the

transaction party provides a document type and destination folder, although additional

information may also be provided. The transaction party may submit the document image

in a multi-page TIFF format, optionally using bar codes to provide required information

such as the document type and the destination folder.

Also, see Shut para 62, teaching a single multi-page.TIFF file may include

multiple documents. In such a file, each document is identified by a separate bar code,

which may be printed directly on the first page of the document or may be located on a

separate coversheet immediately preceding the first page of the document. Accordingly,

indexing process 22, responsively to the information provided by the bar codes, separates

the file into individual document images for storage in database.

Also, see Shut fig. 4 and 6 and para 64-66, shows in FIG. 4, from that screen, the

user checks desired document types 38 and clicks on a submit link 42, which causes the

fax coversheets shown in FIG. 5, to be generated in the browser. At that point, the user

simply prints the coversheets from their browser. Then using barcodes sheets for

identification of documents, the system enables the user to generate barcode sheets that

instruct the system to take a predefined action associated with a folder and/or document

in the repository. For example, a user can generate a barcode sheet that instructs the system to send an email notification indicating that a particular folder contains all documents necessary for the business transaction. This type of barcode sheet is referred to as an "action barcode sheet" and is typically included as the last page of a fax containing documents and coversheet.

In addition, Applicant argues that the reference, Johnson, fails to teach, **identifying the at least one action based on the second plurality of check boxes and the identifying the at least one document based on the first plurality of check boxes from a single image** (see the Remarks page 16 bottom).

The Examiner disagrees.

Using the broadest reasonable interpretation of the claim limitations, as discuss in the rejection above, specifically Johnson illustrates form 500, list content, categories, and into the following form section(s) item 508, that are included plurality of check boxes item 520, 522, 524, and 526 associate to the plurality of check boxes of "into the following form section(s) item 528, 530, and 532 for manipulation of a collection through a plurality of check boxes indicating documents and a plurality of check boxes associated with actions. Also, see Johnson col. 16 lines 20-25, teaching a Starter Form 500 can be created in advance by a user through a form editor user interface provided by windows instructions 304. The form editor can allow the user to create a form with one or more sections, each for requesting a respective type of transaction, such as Send, Retrieve, Store, List Contents, and Delete.

In addition, Johnson and Shut teach the invention of claim 1, but does not expressly teach the use of optical character recognition (OCR).

See, Cooper, col. 1, line 8 through col. 18, line 65, specifically, col. 4, lines 23-38, teaching OCR.

Johnson, Shut and Cooper are combinable in that they involve the same art of document management by cover sheets. In addition, both Johnson and Cooper are named inventors in each of the references and the patents are both assigned to the same Assignee.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have combined the teachings of Johnson and Cooper.

The suggestion or motivation for the combination is that the OCR is but an additional functionality to very similar document management inventions with similar inventors on the two patents.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of Johnson and Cooper to result in the claim specified in claim 30.

Additional Prior Art

9.   The following prior art is made of record and not relied upon that is considered pertinent to applicants' disclosure:

Cooper, et al. (U.S. Patent 5,448,375) teaching multiple check boxes on a single image for purposes of selecting documents and actions.

Conclusion

10.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to Quoc A. Tran whose telephone number is 571-272-8664.

The examiner can normally be reached on 9AM - 5PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, Herndon R. Heather can be reached on 571-272-4136. The fax phone number

for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571)-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent

Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published

applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status

information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For

more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you

have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business

Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Quoc A. Tran
06-05-2007

Doug Hutton
Primary Examiner
Technology Center 2100